

00169.002224.

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

STEPHEN EDWARD ECOB, et al.

Application No.: 09/988,446

Filed: November 20, 2001

For: PERIPHERAL DRIVER
FORWARD COMPATIBILITY

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Examiner: Lechi Truong
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Group Art Unit: 2126
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January 7, 2005

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(ii), effective October 21, 2004, a copy of the U.S. document (1) is not provided. A copy of each of the documents (2) to (6) is enclosed.

- (1) U.S. Publication No. 2002-0082089
- (2) Japan 2002-78957
- (3) Japan 11-219268
- (4) Japan 11-91206
- (5) Japan 8-292853
- (6) Japan 8-123630

These documents were cited in an Office Action for a Japanese application corresponding to the above-identified application. A copy of the Japanese Office Action, which was received December 3, 2004 is enclosed.

An English-language abstract for each of the above-listed Japanese documents has been located and is enclosed. In addition, reference (1) is believed to be an English-language counterpart to reference (2).

This application has received an Office Action on the merits but has not yet received either a final action or a Notice Of Allowance. Accordingly, this Information Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) and is accompanied by the \$180.00 fee specified at 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p). Consideration of the art cited herein is accordingly deemed proper, and such action is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

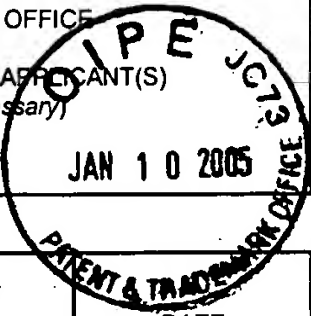
Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Carole A. Quinn
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Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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|---|--|---------------------|----------------|---|------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| FORM PTO 1449 (modified) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary) | | | | ATTY DOCKET NO. 00169.002224. | | APPLICATION NO. 09/988,446 | |
|  | | | | APPLICANT STEPHEN EDWARD ECOB, et al. | | | |
| | | | | FILING DATE November 20, 2001 | | GROUP 2126 | |
| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
| *EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
| | | 2002-0082089 | 6/27/02 | Kobayashi, et al. | 463 | 43 | |
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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
| | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT |
| | | 2002-78957 | 3/19/02 | Japan | | | Abstract |
| | | 11-219268 | 8/10/99 | Japan | | | Abstract |
| | | 11-91206 | 4/6/99 | Japan | | | Abstract |
| | | 8-292853 | 11/5/96 | Japan | | | Abstract |
| | | 8-123630 | 5/17/96 | Japan | | | Abstract |
| | | | | | | | |
| OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) | | | | | | | |
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| EXAMINER | | | | DATE CONSIDERED | | | |

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Sheet 1 of 1

Form #61